

## **METHODS AND APPARATUSES FOR TREATING THE SPINE THROUGH AN ACCESS DEVICE**

### Abstract of the Disclosure

In treating the spine of a patient, an access device is inserted through a minimally invasive incision in the skin of the patient, and advanced until a distal portion of the access device is located adjacent the spine. The access device is expanded from a first configuration to a second configuration, the second configuration having an enlarged cross-sectional area at the distal portion thereof such that the distal portion extends across at least a portion of an intervertebral space. A replacement disc nucleus is delivered through the access device into the intervertebral space.

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